

HEALTH
JAN 45
G.R.
COUNTY OF DEVON
MAY 1945

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

(MEDICAL DEPARTMENT)



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1943

4, Barnfield Crescent,
EXETER.

September 1944.

To the Chairman, Aldermen and
Members of the Devon County Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS,
LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my fifteenth Annual Report
upon the Public Health of the County of Devon.

The vital statistics for the whole of the war period
will, in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health,
be dealt with in a combined report after the war. The following
statistics which have been prepared for 1943 are again very sat-
isfactory.

	<u>1943</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1941</u>
Birth Rate	14.2	13.6	11.0
Death Rate (All causes)	14.4	13.3	13.7
Maternal Death Rate	1.8	3.0	3.6
Infantile Mortality	39.7	38.4	53.9
Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.50	0.56	0.58
Cancer	2.2	1.9	1.76

I again take this opportunity of expressing my apprec-
iation of the loyal co-operation and work of all members of my
staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. MEREDITH DAVIES,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

STAFF OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The only change in the permanent medical staff during the year was the calling up for Service of Dr. W.J. Doyle. He has been replaced by a temporary Assistant Medical Officer.

During the year important staffing adjustments have been made on account of the consolidation into the County Medical Service of certain temporary extensions and improvements which had accrued during the years 1940-43, partially due to the additional needs caused by evacuation.

The additional posts are to the permanent establishment, but except in the case of Health Visitors, the officers filling them are temporary during the war.

The additions referred to are shown below:-

	1939	1943
Assistant County Medical Officers	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	11
Dental Surgeons	9	15
Dental Attendants	9	15
Health Visitor - School Nurses	26	34
Educational Psychologist	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
Psychiatric Social Worker	0	1
Speech Therapists	0	3 pt. time

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifications and deaths from the more common infectious diseases, compared with those for the previous year.

Diphtheria Immunisation campaigns have been actively pursued by many of the local authorities.

	SCARLET FEVER		DIPHTHERIA		†ENTERIC FEVER		*PNEUMONIA		CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER		ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS & POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS	
	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DTHS	CASES	DEATHS
1943	466	2	132	4	25	1	267	233	13	4	1	1
1942	401	1	333	20	47	3	239	223	25	4	5	1
1941	836	4	611	41	58	2	391	317	64	18	10	1
1940	863	4	559	41	69	3	317	358	85	15	6	2
1939	551	1	119	14	21	3	342	221	9	3	7	1

* Deaths include non-notifiable forms of pneumonia.

† See special report on Enteric Fever, below.

REPORT ON TYPHOID CASES AT A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

The following account is a summary of the findings relating to the occurrence of cases of typhoid fever at a residential school in Devon housing about 150 boys.

In the third week of July 1943 two boys fell ill and were removed to Bideford General and, later, Bideford Isolation Hospital, where they were seen by the acting County Bacteriologist. Typhoid fever was diagnosed bacteriologically and the infecting strains proved to be of the somewhat uncommon type D.1. Both boys made a good recovery. Investigation of water, milk and a number of contacts at that time did not disclose the source of infection.

In January 1944, the C.M.O. of Devon was informed by the C.M.O. of Cornwall that another boy from the College had fallen ill during the Christmas holidays at his home near Looe, Cornwall, and that he was in Truro Isolation Hospital. Specimens of faeces were obtained by the Devon County Laboratory and typhoid bacilli, which proved to be of type D.1. were isolated. This greatly strengthened the view, which had, owing to insidious onset of the illness, so far been uncertain, that the boy had been infected while at school. Unfortunately, this boy's illness ended fatally.

The school was visited on January 20th and discussions took place with the Headmaster, the local Medical Officer of Health and, later, Dr. Duff of the Ministry of Health Regional Office, Bristol. Search for a typhoid carrier began with examination of kitchen and domestic staff, and persons employed in milking at the school farm. These examinations (over 100 in all) proved negative, and protective inoculation of all residents was advised and carried out. The school water supply was found to be satisfactory.

Search for the carrier was then extended successively to the teaching staff and to outdoor helpers. This resulted in the discovery that the gardener, about 70 years of age, was a carrier and profuse excretor of typhoid bacilli of the same type D.1 as had been found in the cases. Opportunity for contamination of fruit and vegetables by this gardener had been ample, and there is little doubt that he was responsible for the cases. He has no definite history of having had typhoid fever in the past, but this is not unusual. The School authorities have arranged that he should cease work at the School and steps are otherwise being taken to prevent further infection from this source.

It is worthy of mention that this investigation, including as it did co-operation with authorities outside the County and arrangements for the rapid typing of the typhoid bacilli, was facilitated by the association of the County Laboratory with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of primary notifications during the year was 602, compared with 605 in 1942. The number of cases admitted to Residential Treatment was 456 compared with 505 admitted in 1942. There were 267 patients in residence on the 1st January 1943 and 271 in residence on the 31st December 1943.

During the year 190 patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were treated at various institutions not belonging to the County Council

Grants of extra nourishment, etc. were made as follows:-

- (1) Extra nourishment - 404 grants at 4/- per week,
- (2) Dentistry - 8 grants,
- (3) Surgical appliances, in addition to appliances recommended and supplied by the Devonian Association for Cripples Aid - 37 grants,
- (4) Nursing - 3 grants,
- (5) Fares - 53 grants.

X - RAYS

During the year the following patients from the Administrative County, excluding North Devon, were examined by the County Radiographer - 8,450.

Table 1 shows the number of Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis patients and Table 2 classifies these patients according to sex and age:-

TABLE 1

	MID-DEVON AND IVYBANK	SOUTH DEVON	HAWKMOOR	ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL & OTHER CLINICS	TOTAL
PULMONARY T.B.	2616	2677	2857	-	8150
NON-PULMONARY	117	49	37	97	300
TOTAL	2733	2726	2814	97	8450

TABLE 2

	MID-DEVON AND IVYBANK	SOUTH DEVON	HAWKMOOR	ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL & OTHER CLINICS	TOTAL
MALES	1360	1344	1055	31	3790
FEMALES	892	710	1792	15	3409
CHILDREN	481	672	47	51	1251
TOTAL	2733	2726	2894	97	8450

TABLE 3

	MID-DEVON AND IVYBANK	SOUTH DEVON	HAWKMOOR	ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL & OTHER CLINICS	TOTAL
SCREENINGS	1287	1056	2049	-	4392
FILMS	1446	1670	845	97	4058
TOTAL	2733	2726	2894	97	8450

HAWKMOOR SANATORIUM

Work has continued uninterrupted throughout the year. The E.M.S. beds mentioned in last year's report remain unoccupied. The main difference from previous years has been the exceptional call on the sanatorium beds owing to the needs of the times. This has been met in part by continuing to use the Recreation Halls on the New Blocks as temporary wards. The subjoined tables present in concise form the number of patients and types of case, together with the treatment given.

Total number of beds available 156
 Total number of patients admitted 275
 " " " " discharged or who died ... 266
 Number of patient days 56,693
 Average number of beds occupied 155

Age Classification on Admission	Males	Females	Total
Under 15 years	15	10	25
" 25 "	41	55	96
" 35 "	36	45	81
" 45 "	33	18	51
" 55 "	10	5	15
" 65 "	3	3	6
Over 65 "	1	-	1
	139	136	275

Disease Classification on Admission

Pulmonary only	Males	Females	Children	Total
Observation	11	12	8	31
Class T.B. Minus	42	47	5	94
Class T.B. Plus				
Group 1	12	8	-	20
Group 2	21	17	1	39
Group 3	36	35	-	71
Non-Pulmonary only				
Bones & Joints	1	-	-	1
Abdominal	-	-	1	1
Other Organs	1	1	-	2
Glands	1	5	10	16
				<u>275</u>

This analysis shows that the type of case admitted is much the same as last year.

RETURN SHOWING THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS OF PATIENTS DISCHARGED

	CLASSIFICATION ON ADMISSION	CONDITION AT THE TIME OF DISCHARGE	DURATION OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT IN THE INSTITUTION															
			UNDER 28 DAYS			UNDER 3 MONTHS			3 TO 6 MONTHS			6 TO 12 MONTHS			OVER 12 MONTHS			TOTALS
			M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	M	F	C	
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS	CLASS T.B. MINUS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - 4 - - - - -	- - - 7 4 2 1 1 -	- - - 16 17 2 - - -	- - - 6 11 3 - 1 -	- - - 3 1 - - - -	- 76 3										
	CLASS T.B.+ GROUP 1	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - 3 3 - - - -	- - - 6 3 - - - -	- - - 2 - - - - -	- 17 -										
	CLASS T.B.+ GROUP 2	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - 1 - - - - -	- - - 2 5 - 1 - -	- - - 10 11 - - - 1	- - - 7 4 - 1 1 -	- 40 4										
	CLASS T.B.+ GROUP 3	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - 1 2 - 1 1 -	- - - 3 3 - 1 2 -	- - - 6 6 - 6 4 -	- - - 7 5 - 2 5 -	- - - 9 5 - 3 4 1	- 47 30										
		TOTALS	6 3 - 13 10 2 34 35 2	31 36 4 25 15 1	217													
NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS	BONES AND JOINTS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - 1 - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- 1 -										
	ABDOMINAL	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - 2 - 1 -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- 2 1										
	OTHER ORGANS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - -										
	PERIPHERAL GLANDS	QUIESCENT NOT QUIESCENT DIED	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - 2 6 - - -	- - - 1 2 7 - - -	- - - - - - - - -	- - - - - 1 - - -	- 19 -										
		TOTALS	- - - 1 2 6 1 3 9	- - - - - 1	23													

Although trace has been lost of more patients, it is still only about 6% of the total follow-up, and this in spite of the fact that many of our evacuee patients have left the county.

Artificial pneumothorax was attempted in 89 cases, of which 65 cases were successful and 24 unsuccessful. In addition to this 13 patients were admitted whose pneumothorax had been induced elsewhere. 1837 re-fills were given. In November we started using pneumo-peritoneum as an

addition to our forms of treatment, and 7 cases were induced by the end of the year.

The out-patient clinic continues to do useful work with consultations and refills for patients who live in the neighbourhood, the number of attendances again showing an increase over last year.

8 patients had ultra violet ray, and 4 infra red ray therapy.

The following is a summary of the surgical work performed:-

Phrenic nerve operations	58
Removal of T.B. glands	12
Thoracoscopy and cauterization of adhesions	38
Repair of fistula in ano	5
Extra pleural pneumothorax	2
Thoracoplasty	13
Drainage of empyema	2
Rib resection and drainage of T.B. abscess	2
Amputation of breast	1
Orchidectomy	1
Minor operations	12

X-RAYS

There were 2,049 screenings made, and 845 films taken. Of these 799 were plain chest, 13 after lipiodol injection, and 33 of other parts including one set of intravenous pyelograms.

DENTAL TREATMENT

As in former years dental treatment has continued to play an important part in the general therapeutic scheme. 475 attendances were made by patients, and analysis of the treatment given is as follows:- 77 fillings, 175 extractions, 424 scalings etc., 21 dentures supplied and 6 dentures repaired.

The County Council oculist and psychologist have visited when requested.

YEAR OF DISCHARGE	UNTRACED	1	2	3	DIED	TOTAL	GRAND TOTALS
1929. T.B. -	6	45	15	3	12	81	
T.B. + 1	3	6	9	2	10	30	
T.B. + 2	2	-	3	1	26	32	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	5	5	148
1930. T.B. -	9	32	15	6	13	75	
T.B. + 1	4	6	6	2	9	27	
T.B. + 2	4	-	1	-	32	37	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	4	4	143
1931. T.B. -	10	44	21	5	10	90	
T.B. + 1	-	3	6	-	5	14	
T.B. + 2	3	-	3	2	24	32	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	1	10	11	147
1932. T.B. -	8	41	26	4	13	92	
T.B. + 1	1	-	4	-	3	8	
T.B. + 2	2	-	4	6	21	33	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	10	10	143
1933. T.B. -	6	17	30	5	9	67	
T.B. + 1	1	3	4	1	3	12	
T.B. + 2	5	3	9	1	26	44	
T.B. + 3	-	-	1	2	4	7	130

1934. T.B. -	6	28	36	4	6	80	
T.B. + 1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
T.B. + 2	1	3	9	5	21	39	
T.B. + 3	-	-	-	-	2	2	122
1935. T.B. -	12	41	31	5	5	94	
T.B. + 1	-	-	2	-	-	2	
T.B. + 2	3	1	12	3	13	32	
T.B. + 3	-	-	2	3	5	10	138
1936. T.B. -	1	20	31	3	9	64	
T.B. + 1	1	-	1	-	-	2	
T.B. + 2	2	1	14	7	9	33	
T.B. + 3	-	-	9	8	13	30	129
1937. T.B. -	8	18	29	5	4	64	
T.B. + 1	-	-	2	-	1	3	
T.B. + 2	3	-	7	7	3	20	
T.B. + 3	1	-	5	10	18	34	121
1938. T.B. -	4	24	45	1	5	79	
T.B. + 1	1	1	4	-	-	6	
T.B. + 2	3	1	11	7	2	24	
T.B. + 3	1	1	4	10	16	32	141
1939. T.B. -	4	7	65	7	4	87	
T.B. + 1	-	1	7	1	1	10	
T.B. + 2	3	1	6	11	7	28	
T.B. + 3	3	1	8	18	25	55	180
1940. T.B. -	5	18	49	4	3	79	
T.B. + 1	1	1	2	6	-	10	
T.B. + 2	-	-	12	29	3	44	
T.B. + 3	2	-	1	13	9	25	158
1941. T.B. -	10	7	50	8	9	84	
T.B. + 1	-	-	9	-	-	9	
T.B. + 2	3	-	31	5	3	42	
T.B. + 3	3	-	3	11	10	27	162
1942. T.B. -	3	1	54	8	3	69	
T.B. + 1	-	-	12	-	-	12	
T.B. + 2	2	-	31	5	2	40	
T.B. + 3	4	-	3	21	9	37	158
TOTALS	154	376	754	266	470	2020	2020

COUNTY LABORATORY

During the year 19,899 examinations have been made.

ROUTINE EXAMINATIONS

	Positive	Negative	Total	TOTALS
Diphtheria swabs	335	3953	4288	
Sputum (T.B.)	432	1579	2011	
Ringworm	15	32	47	
Enteric Fever (Widal)	120 sera were examined			6466

MILK CLEANLINESS

	Passed	Failed	Total	
Ordinary	418	322	740	
Accredited	665	500	1165	
T.T.	93	80	173	
Pasteurised	12	20	32	
School Milk	93	90	183	
P.A. Institutions	45	66	111	
P.H. "	6	4	10	2414

MILK - TUBERCULOSIS

TOTALS

	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive	Total	
Bulk samples	2	167	34	203	
Min. of Agric.	7	50	5	62	
	9	217	39	265	265

MILK - MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year 158 samples were submitted

By veterinary surgeons	93	
By agricultural advisers ...	19	
By sanitary inspectors	46	158

WATER

During the year 1069 samples from public supplies were examined:-

Satisfactory	461	
Doubtful	67	
Unsatisfactory	282	
Services	232	
D.W.A.E.C.	12	
Metals only	5	
Sewage effluents	4	
Hardness only	6	1069

VENEREAL DISEASES

Wassermann Tests	2367	
Gonococci (micro)	1087	
G.C.F.T.	722	
Spirochaetes	5	4181

GENERAL BACTERIOLOGY

General Bacteriology (including for Tubercle Bacilli)

	Faeces	6	
	Urine	150	
	Pus	34	
	Pleural fluid ...	8	
	C.S.F.....	35	
	Sputum	4	
	Glands	3	
	Smears	3	243
<u>Enteric Fevers</u>	Faeces	772	
	Urine	199	
	Blood cultures ..	44	
	Water	1	
	Milk	2	
	Sewage effluent .	12	1030

Haemolytic streptococci 3584Various Specimens

Biological tests	64	
Virulence tests	37	
Blood films	33	
Glandular fever	7	
Urine - superannuation ...	40	
Churn washings	122	
Foodstuffs	89	
Swabs	72	
Various	25	489

Total all specimens examined during 1943

19899

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Notification of Births. The following births were notified during 1943 as compared with 1942. (These do not correspond with the number of births supplied by the Registrar-General)

	1943	1942
Notified by Medical Practitioners	953	917
Notified by Midwives	4765	4902
Reported by Registrars as non-notified	240	314
Total	<u>5958</u>	<u>6133</u>

Infant Mortality Rate - 39.7.

Stillbirths. There were 175 notified during the year compared with 161 cases in 1942.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. During the year 12 cases were notified compared with 14 cases in 1942.

The Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives investigated 12 cases, and reported as follows:-

Treated at home	6	Treated in hospital ..	6
Vision unimpaired ...	12	Vision impaired	0

Total Blindness - 0

Maternal Mortality - Rate for the year - 1.8

Puerperal & Post Abort. Sepsis - 0.56

Other causes - 1.26

During the year 10 cases were investigated where the certificate indicated that the fatalities were associated with pregnancy and parturition.

ANALYSIS OF MATERNAL DEATHS NOTIFIED TO MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

<u>Principal Causes of Death</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Toxaemia	2	-	2
2. Haemorrhage	3	-	3
2a Toxaemia combined with Haemorrhage	-	-	-
3. Shock or exhaustion due to prolonged labour	-	-	-
4. Sepsis	1	-	1
5. Other causes	4	-	4
6. All causes	10	-	10

Analysis of Age of Mother

25 - 30	4
30 - 35	2
35 - 40	3
40 - 45	1
45 - 50	-

Analysis of Preventability

Death might have been prevented by:-

Better antenatal supervision	2
Better obstetric facilities at delivery ..	-
Specialist facilities in hospital	-
Intelligent co-operation of patient	-

Puerperal Pyrexia. During the year 32 cases were notified including the Borough of Torquay. The Inspector of Midwives investigated 30 cases (excluding Torquay).

Ante and Post-natal Clinics

Paignton. During the year there were 45 sessions at which 224 attendances were made.

Newton Abbot. During the year there were 48 sessions and 285 attendances were made.

Antenatal Examinations and Post-natal Examinations (General Practitioner Scheme). 1773 applications were received from Medical Practitioners for payment of fees as compared with 1812 in 1942.

Consultants Scheme. There were 215 applications as compared with 172 in 1942. Of this number 47 received X-ray examinations.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Care. 974 applications were approved as compared with 592 in 1942.

Home Helps. 212 applications were approved as compared with 236 in 1942.

Dental Treatment. 77 applications approved as compared with 37 in 1942.

Maternity Outfits. 403 outfits were supplied during the year as compared with 265 in 1942. Of this number 68 were supplied free of charge.

Supervision of Midwives. 520 visits (774 in 1942) were paid to 306 midwives who notified their intention to practise during 1943.

Notifications under Rules of Central Midwives Board

Requisitions for medical aid	1507
Stillbirths	25
Laying out a dead body	32
Contact with infection	39
Death of mother or child	8
Artificial feeding	78

Fees to Medical Practitioners called in by Midwives. 1273 claims were passed for payment.

Health Visiting. During the year Health Visitors paid the following visits:-

To expectant Mothers	3182
Children under 1 year (first visits)	7015
do. (Re-visits)	25512
Children 1 to 5 years	32592
Boarded-out children	934
Tuberculosis cases	943

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. At 57 Welfare Centres in the County 1891 sessions were held and the following attendances were made:

Mothers present	51792
Infants present	34921
Children 1 - 5	19124

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Arrangements were made to admit 136 expectant mothers to hospitals and nursing homes in the County.

Dental Treatment. 6 applications were approved.

Consultants' Fees. 1 application was approved.

Home Helps. No applications were received.

35 claims were received from Medical Practitioners in respect of fees under the Midwives Acts (Emergency Midwifery Services).

Welfare Centres. The following attendances were made:-

	Official Evacuees	Unofficial Evacuees
Mothers present	2667	1177
Infants present	1347	828
Children 1 - 5	1605	402

War-time Nurseries. In 1942 the following nurseries were established in Devon for the first time. These were of three kinds:-

Residential: 24 accommodating children from evacuated areas.

Day Nurseries:

Whole-time 4) accommodating children living in the area

Part-time 17) whose mothers are employed on war work.

Routine medical inspections are carried out monthly in the case of children under 2 years of age, and quarterly in the case of children from 2-5 years of age, and supervisory visits are made at suitable intervals.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

Public Health Act, 1936
(Part 7, Sections 206-220)

In the administrative County at the beginning of the year there were 197 children boarded out in accordance with the above Act, and 113 registered foster parents. At the end of the year there were 157 children and 121 foster parents on the list.

The following notifications were received from foster mothers during the year:-

- 20 children were legally adopted
- 82 children were removed to their parents
- 5 children were removed to the care of relatives
- 26 children were removed from the County
- 10 children were removed to other foster mothers
- 1 child attained the age of nine years
- 3 children were removed to hospital
- 1 child died in hospital

During the year two children were removed from foster mothers under a magistrate's order.

The Health Visitors who are Inspectors under the Act, paid 934 visits of inspection.

Miss L. M. Booker, Chief Child Life Protection Visitor, paid 138 visits of inspection to the homes of foster children.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (Regulation) ACT, 1939

Two notifications were received under Section 7(3) during the year.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

During the year 64 new cases were notified to the Mental Deficiency Committee as requiring action to be taken under the Act. Institutional vacancies are still inadequate, partly owing to staffing difficulties at the Royal Western Counties Institution, Starcross, and in the County Institutions, and only urgent cases can be granted admission. In order to increase accommodation licence facilities have been used to their maximum, and at the end of the year there were 178 cases on licence in the County, many of these in paid employment. There were in addition 19 patients under Guardianship, supervised under the Guardianship scheme by the Devon Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare.

At the end of 1943 there were 334 Devon cases in the Royal Western Counties Institution, Starcross, 92 in the Devon and Exeter Homes, 151 in Box House, Axminster, 96 in Western Lodge, Crediton, 32 in Stoke Lyne, Exmouth, and 31 patients in institutions outside the County (including State institutions).

The Devon Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare have continued to give their valuable assistance in social case work and in the work of supervision of licence and guardianship cases and by home teaching, and in their two Occupation Centres at Barnstaple and Torquay.

Court and Prison cases referred for examination by the County Psychiatrist continue to increase.

Stoke Lyne, Exmouth continues to take boys up to 16 years of imbecile grade. There is a full time training school which occupies nearly all the boys. A sale of handwork was held which realised £62, a very creditable result in view of the grade of patient here.

Western Lodge, Crediton. 35 per cent. of the patients on the books are out on licence. Recently the type of outside work done by the patients has been extended, as it was realised that domestic work is not always the most suitable form of employment for these high grade defective women. Twelve patients have assisted local farmers in daily work on the land and 3 have given valuable assistance at the British Restaurant. In the institution, the various occupations have been fully utilised, the Laundry which does the work of 5 county institutions and the local troops has continued very active, and the handicrafts department realised over £430 during the year. Suitable premises are being sought for the proposed Hostel for patients working on licence from Western Lodge.

Box House, Axminster. The number of patients here has been increased as a war-time measure to 141. There are 13 patients out in resident licence and about 12 going out daily from the institution to neighbouring farms. The value of daily licence as a trial period preliminary to full licence is undoubted, and these patients are allowed 5/- a week spending money. Over three-quarters of the patients are employed in the various departments of the institution which show a good return, e.g., tailoring, carpentry, boot repairing. The advantages as a means of training and stabilisation of granting a maximum of liberty under supervision are evident and the life is organised to include as many privileges as possible. Over 40 patients are allowed out on parole for walks at week-ends when they spend their pocket money, and it is found that this privilege is much appreciated and very rarely abused.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Arrangements were continued for the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from venereal diseases at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Torbay Hospital, North Devon Infirmary (Annexe), Barnstaple, and the City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter, for observation and treatment. In October arrangements were made for an additional session at Torbay, and consideration is being given to arranging sessions at other Centres.

The total number of new County cases attending for out-patient treatment at the Centres during 1943 was 519 compared with 346 in 1942. 36 new in-patients received treatment compared with 35 for 1942.

Up to the end of 1943 the names of 44 medical practitioners had been placed on the list of those qualified to administer salvarsan substitutes, and 231 supplies were sent out during the year compared with 353 in the previous year.

The total number of specimens examined during the year at the County Laboratory was 4,181 compared with 2,393 in 1942.

It was found necessary to repay the sum of £114 1s 2½d to patients for expenses incurred in travelling to the nearest clinics, compared with £34 2s. in 1942 and £50 9s 8d in 1941.

The following table shows the number of persons who attended for the first time, and the total number of attendances of all persons at the clinics during the years 1941 to 1943:-

1. Number dealt with at or in connection with the out-patient clinics for the first time	1941	1942	1943
...	214	346	518
2. Total attendances of all persons residing in the administrative County	...	10,325	10,631
...	...	12,168	

General Practitioner V.D. Scheme

Under this scheme general practitioners who have been approved by

the Ministry of Health are provided by the County Council with certain equipment and are paid for the treatment of patients in accordance with the scale laid down. This scheme is intended chiefly to provide treatment facilities for persons living in areas not easily accessible to one of the County Treatment Centres. Twenty-one doctors have so far been approved to work under this scheme.

Regulation 33(b)

The above Regulation provides for the compulsory treatment of venereal diseases in certain circumstances. The Regulation imposes duties upon Medical Officers of Health and Special Practitioners. Special Practitioners are defined in the Regulation as follows:-

- (a) a registered medical practitioner who is qualified under the Local Government (Qualification of Medical Officers and Health Visitors) Regulation, 1930, to be a venereal diseases officer, or who is or has been a venereal diseases officer by virtue of a dispensation given by the Minister;
- (b) a Medical Officer of the Royal Navy, the Army or the Royal Air Force or of the Dominions or of the Women's Forces employed for the time being as a specialist in venereal diseases;
- (c) any other registered medical practitioner designated by the Minister of Health for the purposes of the Regulation.

A practitioner wishing to be approved under (c) has to apply to the County or County Borough Medical Officer of Health who will forward the application with his recommendation to the Minister of Health.

During the year 34 contacts were notified on Form 1, but only in 5 instances was a second notification received in respect of the same contact. These 5 contacts were instructed to attend for examination and all complied. Where only one notification is received it is not possible to take legal action to force a contact to attend for examination, but every effort is made to get the contact to attend voluntarily.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION

Inspection of Rivers in connection with Pollution were greatly curtailed during the year, partly due to travel restrictions and partly to the increase in other work. Observations, when possible, were made of the Rivers Culm, Erme, Dart and Torridge, and samples taken as indicated. Pollution of the River Culm in its lower reaches continues to be marked, and the River Erme has also shown some evidence of pollution on occasions.

Difficulties have been encountered in obtaining curtailment of pollution of streams, used as water courses for cattle, from certain military establishments. In all cases fullest representation has been made to the Authorities concerned to abate the pollution.

COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTORS

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year:-

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS

Inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	8
Number of water samples submitted	...	...	...	8

RIVERS POLLUTION AND WATER SUPPLIES

Visits of inspection	....	...	...	...	42
Visits to investigate complaints	..,	...	...	...	3
Samples of river water	...	...	...	...	12
Water samples (Bacteriological and Chemical)	...	...	...	...	135
Surveys of water supplies and sewage disposal schemes					26

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Accredited Herds - Inspection of premises of new applicants	142
Re-inspections of approved producers ...	313
Inspections for bottling licences ...	3
Tuberculin Tested Herds - Inspection of premises of new applicants ...	147
Re-inspection of approved producers ...	55
Inspections for bottling licences ...	8
Milk in Schools Scheme - Inspection of premises ...	60
Milk supplies to Council's Institutions - Inspection of premises	2
Visits to 'Ordinary' herds for Mastitis & Undulant Fever ...	13
Samples of Milk ...	79

MILK DEPOTS & FACTORIES

Visits and inspections ...	58
No. of churns submitted for bacteriological examination ...	104
No. of bottles submitted for bacteriological examination ...	12

GENERAL

Visits to Schools ...	3
Consultations with District Sanitary Inspectors etc. ...	143
Investigation of other complaints ...	11

MILK

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926,
MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936 & 1938

The following is a summary of the work in connection with the supervision of milk supplies:-

During the year ended 31st December, 1943, 5531 Veterinary Inspections were carried out. 99,655 bovines were examined, and 309 (.30) cows with indurated udders have been detected. Examination of the milk from abnormal udders has shown that 21 (.02) of the total number of animals examined were giving tuberculous milk, and 436 (.44) of the total number of cows examined were giving milk which was unfit for human consumption for reasons other than tuberculosis.

The cows giving tuberculous milk have been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Orders, while steps have been taken to prevent the milk from other cows, returned as unfit, from reaching the public.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936 & 1938	NEW APPLICA- TIONS APPROVED	NUMBER IN FORCE AT END OF YEAR	NO.OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED	NO.OF SAMPLES FAILED	PERCENT- AGE
ACCREDITED LICENCES	48	879	1271	561*	44.1
TUBERCULIN TESTED	22	101	198	94	47.47

* INCLUDES REPEAT SAMPLES

The majority of milk samples are submitted by the Local Sanitary Inspectors in the County, the remainder being taken by the County Sanitary Inspectors and Dairy Instructresses.

SUMMARY OF CANCELLED OR SUSPENDED LICENCES

Cancelled owing to unsatisfactory premises, methods or use of mechanical milking machines without steam sterilisation	3
Suspended ...	-
Withdrawn owing to holder having given up business	7
Withdrawn owing to holder moving to other premises	37
Transferred from Accredited to Tuberculin Tested	13
Transferred from Tuberculin Tested to Accredited	2
Licences transferred to other members of family, (formation of partnership, etc.) ...	4

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

During the year the herds of producers supplying milk under this scheme have been examined quarterly, and samples of milk submitted from any suspicious cows.

125 bulk samples of milk from these producers have been taken by the Local Sanitary Inspectors for cleanliness, and of these, 62 (49.6%) have failed to reach the required standard - this number includes repeat samples.

	SCHOOLS NOT RECEIVING MILK		SCHOOLS RECEIVING MILK	
	No.	PERCENTAGE	No.	PERCENTAGE
ELEMENTARY: URBAN AND RURAL	50	9.9	456	90.1
SECONDARY: URBAN AND RURAL	-	-	24	100.0
TOTALS	50	9.4	480*	90.6

* Including evacuated schools

The following table shows the percentages of the types of milk supplied:-

	T.T.		PASTEURISED		ACCREDITED		NON-DESIGNATED		DRIED		TOTAL
	No.	P.C.	No.	P.C.	No.	P.C.	No.	P.C.	No.	P.C.	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS											
URBAN	15	13.2	22	19.3	61	53.5	16	14.0	-	-	114
RURAL	33	9.7	45	13.2	96	28.1	34	39.1	34	9.9	342
	48	10.5	67	14.7	157	34.4	150	32.9	34	7.5	456
SECONDARY SCHOOLS											
URBAN	3	13.6	10	45.5	8	36.4	1	4.5	-	-	22
RURAL	-	-	-	-	2	100.0	-	-	-	-	2
	3	12.5	10	41.6	10	41.6	1	4.1	-	-	24
ALL SCHOOLS	51	10.6	77	16.0	167	34.8	151	31.5	34	7.1	480

Report by County Veterinary Officer on:-

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL SCHEME FOR THE CONTROL OF MASTITIS AND OTHER DISEASES IN DAIRY HERDS

I submit herewith my report on the work of the above Scheme for the year 1st August, 1943, to 31st July, 1944.

When the Public Health Committee of the Devon County Council considered the desirability and practicability of initiating and putting into effect a Veterinary Service, having as its primary object the control of Mastitis in Dairy Herds, they held the view that a considerable wastage of the fluid milk supply in the County was directly and indirectly attributable to this cause. There was also not a little evidence to support the view that low productivity in cows and consequent depreciation was associated with such infection. They felt, therefore, that some scheme of control, whereby clinical examinations of dairy herds together with bacteriological examinations of milk samples from individual cows, carried out by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon, in order to determine the type of infection present, might serve a useful purpose in the above connection. It was hoped that farmers would benefit from such a

Service, that it would be fully utilised, and that there would be full co-operation with the local Veterinary Surgeons. Accordingly they came to an arrangement with the Seale-Hayne Agricultural College whereby the Veterinary Services laboratory, and clerical facilities were made available for the above purpose.

In the first year of the Scheme I was somewhat sceptical as to the value of the Service as I felt that producers were not making sufficiently full use of it to justify the expenditure involved. I expressed this belief to you, whereupon you came to an arrangement with the Devon War Agricultural Executive Committee whereby the services of the County Dairy Instructresses were made available to a greater extent than previously for duties associated with the Scheme. This arrangement, and the publicity given by the various veterinary demonstrations, "Brains Trust" meetings, lectures, etc., organised by the Technical Development Committee of the Devon War Agricultural Executive Committee had a very marked and immediate effect in stimulating an interest in Animal Health problems and much greater use was made of the facilities provided by the Scheme. Further publicity by the way of explanatory pamphlets brought to the notice of a larger number of farmers the existence and scope of the Service.

The result has been that the work of the Scheme has greatly increased during the present year, and there is every indication that it is increasing and will continue so to do. The work has, in fact, extended to such an extent that it is now becoming increasingly difficult to attend to all requests for advice, examinations of cows, and of milk samples, etc. The laboratory side of the Scheme has greatly developed, as have the clerical duties associated with it.

Communications from farmers, veterinary surgeons, dairy instructresses and others associated with the dairy industry in the County, leave one with no doubt as to the Scheme being justified and to the desirability of its continuance. The only criticism would appear to be that it is not sufficiently extensive. Those farmers who have made full use of the Service are convinced that it is serving a very useful purpose and they are, I know, very appreciative of the efforts of the County Council to do something practical in connection with the control of a disease which more than any other is responsible for loss and depreciation in dairy herds. Some who have had herds badly affected for many years and suffered considerable financial loss as a consequence, have already been able completely to eradicate the disease, while others have been able to get it well under control. Some farmers, incidentally, have estimated their loss from this disease alone at as high a figure as £500. Others, again, claim that by making use of the facilities offered by the Scheme they have raised the average yield of their herd in addition to eliminating this disease. Their evidence supports ones own views that clinical examinations of individual cows in a herd, together with monthly or six-weekly examinations of milk samples from individual cows, followed by suitable treatment of affected animals, is one of the most satisfactory methods of keeping the disease under control and of ultimately eradicating it. It should be noted here that treatment is carried out only by the owner's own veterinary surgeon who is informed of the results of the examination. The importance of frequent milk examinations is that it reveals the presence of disease at an early stage, and often before it is detectable by other means. The type of organism present is also determined and the appropriate treatment can consequently be carried out before any great damage is done to the secretory tissues of the udder, and at a time when treatment is likely to be most satisfactory. An example may be cited from one tuberculin tested milk recorded herd in which careful records were kept. The owner, a most observant and practical man who has made use of the Scheme since its inception, estimates that when cows become affected with streptococcal mastitis, the yield per cow may drop from 4 gallons per day to as low as $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons before any observable change is noted in the udder or even in the milk. If the disease is diagnosed early by milk examinations and treatment carried out promptly, the milk yield goes up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ gallons within one week, and may in some cases exceed the yield recorded previous to the onset of infection. This farmer, like several others, makes a practice of having milk samples

from cows submitted at about monthly intervals and is certain that by this means he is able to control a disease which has been responsible for much loss in his herd.

Much evidence converges to show that the incidence of this disease is high in the herds in the County, and that, as a consequence, there is a considerable loss of milk and depreciation of cows. Equally, it is clear that if the disease is to be controlled it is essential that diagnosis be made at an early date by clinical examination of cows and by examination of milk samples, and that the appropriate treatment be carried out by the owner's veterinary surgeon as early as possible. Veterinary surgeons are finding this Service of considerable aid, and the great majority of the practitioners in the County are now making use of it and are co-operating freely. This co-operation on the part of the Veterinary practitioners in the County is encouraging as it is the desire of the Committee that the Service in no way adversely affects the Veterinary Surgeon in his relation with his clients. The County Dairy Instructresses have also co-operated freely and have done very useful work in this connection. Despite their own arduous duties they have found time to give much assistance.

During the year visits were made to 176 farms for the purpose of clinical examination of cows and in order to give advice in connection with the establishment of tuberculin tested herds.

A total of 2,096 cows were clinically examined and milk samples taken from 346 of these for bacteriological examination. Requests for advice were received from Farmers, Veterinary Surgeons, Dairy Instructresses, Sanitary Inspectors, Creameries, Agricultural Officers of the Devon War Agricultural Executive Committee, Milk Recording Officers, and local Medical Officers of Health. Altogether 321 queries were dealt with by letter or telephone. A total of 1,216 milk samples was submitted for bacteriological examination by Veterinary Surgeons, Farmers, Dairy Instructresses, and Sanitary Inspectors, and reports issued. Of all the cows examined in affected herds 364 or approximately 17% were found to be affected with mastitis in some form or other. Some of these, however, were mild cases. 152 or 7.1% were advanced cases. 74% of all cases of mastitis examined revealed that the causal organism was streptococcus agalactiae. This type of infection, incidentally, is the one which if diagnosed early responds so well to treatment with sulphanilamide. Where the results of treatment have been followed up, in some cases the percentage of recoveries was found to be very high, approximately 89%. 22% of cases were either due to staphylococcal infection or a mixed infection of staphylococci and streptococci. In the remainder of cases no organisms were detected even by enrichment methods, but some of these may have had previous treatment.

It is somewhat difficult to assess the loss in dairy herds from this disease alone but from the limited information received during this present investigation a very conservative figure would be about £85 per herd or an average of over £6 per cow in the herd.

Where a cow has an advanced infection there may be a complete loss of milk, but generally there is a drop of about 60% in normal yield. In less severe cases there may be a drop of about 10% in yield. In addition to the loss in milk a badly affected cow may depreciate in value by about £15 - £20, while a cow whose productivity has been affected as a result of a mild infection may depreciate by from £5 - £10. From economic as well as from public health points of view it is desirable that every effort be made to eliminate this disease from dairy herds.

Advice has been given in connection with the establishment of tuberculin tested herds in the County and the desirability of increasing the number of such herds has been stressed. The pamphlet issued by the Department in this connection seems to have been useful and it is encouraging to note the rise in numbers of tuberculin tested herds and of those in process of becoming tuberculin tested.

The unsatisfactory condition of animal buildings and the inadequate and unsatisfactory water supplies on a large number of farms are causes

which appear to be preventing farmers from establishing tuberculin tested herds in certain areas. It seems certain that but for these reasons many more tuberculin tested herds would be set up in the County. The arrangement made whereby the County Council pays the Veterinary Surgeons fees in those cases where the number of reactors revealed at a test prevents the producer setting up a T.T. herd has been taken advantage of and would appear to be an inducement to farmers to consider tuberculin testing who might otherwise not do so.

The importance of milk recording has been emphasised during the course of this work and it is likely that more milk recorded herds will be registered soon. Milk recording apart from revealing the most productive cows plays a great part in detecting the onset of certain diseases. If all herds became milk recorded, the popular but pernicious practice of overstocking cows offered for sale in the market would disappear. This practice is one of the chief predisposing causes of mastitis.

Another factor that has attracted attention is the inferior quality of a large proportion of stock. The work of the Live Stock Improvement Department should do much to better this state of affairs. Particular attention should be given to the feeding and rearing of young stock if the dairy herds in the County are to be maintained at a reasonably high level of production and if disease is to be eradicated. The practice of housing such young stock in the most unhygienic buildings and of providing them with a mere maintenance ration at the most important stage of their development, that is up to 15 months, is to be discouraged. It would seem better to concentrate effort in providing good housing conditions and good nutrition at that age than to expend it more lavishly and wastefully in later years in attempts at repair which at the best can only be palliative. It would seem that breeding policies will not attain their full usefulness if attention is not given to these environmental factors.

It would also appear that if the standard of health and productivity is to be raised in the dairy herds that progress might best be made by acting along the following lines:

1. The establishment of tuberculin tested herds
2. Encouragement of milk recording
3. Breeding from desirable stock
4. Encouragement of self-supporting herds
5. Improvement of pastures by modern methods
6. Scientific feeding of stock
7. Good herd management with particular attention paid to young stock.

With the great increase in the amount of work and the increasing requests for advice and assistance it will be necessary, if the Scheme is to continue and attain its full usefulness, that the appointment of an Assistant Veterinary Officer be immediately considered.

In the first year of the Scheme the demand for the Service did not come up to expectations. The staff available then, however, did not make it possible to deal with a great amount of work. Adequate laboratory and clerical assistance has since been provided and it is as a consequence possible to deal with much larger numbers of milk examinations. The laboratory and other facilities at the College for dealing with this part of the work are most satisfactory.

A certain amount of minor research has been done during the course of the routine examinations and the limited information obtained suggests that there is wide scope for research work in connection with this and other diseases and that, in fact, the encouragement of research and the ultimate provision of research facilities in this region would be of the greatest benefit to the dairy industry and the farming community in general.

COMPARISON OF THE WORK OF THE SCHEME
DURING 1942/43 and 1943/44

	1942/43	1943/44
Number of farms visited	30	146
Number of cows examined	499	2,096
Average number of cows per farm	17	14
Number of cases of mastitis - all forms	65	364
Number of cases of mastitis - advanced	-	152
Percentage of mastitis cases - all forms	13	17
Percentage of mastitis cases - advanced	-	7
Number of Milk Samples taken for examination	117	346
Number of Milk Samples submitted by veterinary surgeons, farmers etc.	26	1,216
Number of enquiries for advice	25	321
Number of enquiries not dealt with owing to inadequate staff	-	15

I should like to say how much I value and appreciate the advice and assistance that has been freely given by all those concerned in different aspects of this work. The Staff of the County Medical Department have been particularly helpful. The War Agricultural Executive Committee and Technical Development Department have always been free with advice and assistance, and have done much to make the Scheme known to farmers. The Livestock Department of the Committee have in particular been most helpful.

The help and assistance that has been provided by the College has done much to simplify work and make for the more efficient functioning of the Scheme, and I feel sure that in the future every aid and encouragement will be given towards making the Scheme highly successful and useful.

The consideration and courtesy shown by the Public Health Committee has been very encouraging, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance they have at all times given in connection with this work.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938: OTHER PROVISIONS

With the exception of the duties in connection with milk, (other than chemical composition and adulteration), all functions relating to the sale of Food and Drugs are discharged by the Police. There are no special County Sampling Officers. Samples are taken regularly by the Police Officers and submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. T. Tickle, for analysis. The latter submits a report to the Public Health Committee at the end of each quarter. In the Paignton Urban District the sampling is carried out by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The following gives details of the specimens submitted to the County Analyst during the year:-

ARTICLE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES		NUMBER OF ADULTERATIONS		NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS		AMOUNT OF FINES & COSTS
	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943
ALE, WHISKY & BEER	33	10	2	-	2	-	£2 0 6
BAKING POWDER	14	11	-	-	-	-	-
BUTTER	40	35	-	-	-	-	-
BREAD	6	8	-	-	-	-	-
CAKE MIXTURE	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHEESE	6	8	-	-	-	-	-
COCOA	17	15	-	-	-	-	-
COFFEE	12	9	-	-	-	-	-
COOKING FAT	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
CORNFLOUR	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
FLOUR, SELF-RAISING PLAIN	32	49	-	-	-	-	-

CONTD.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, CONTD.

ARTICLE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES		NUMBER OF ADULTERATIONS		NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS		AMOUNT OF FINES & COSTS
	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943
FISH PASTE	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
GROUND GINGER	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
LARD	22	31	-	-	-	-	-
MARGARINE	28	32	-	-	-	-	-
MILK	602	532	55	60	31	43	£114. 6. 0
MILK, DRIED	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	31	18	-	-	-	-	-
MUSTARD	11	3	-	-	-	-	-
OATMEAL	5	2	-	-	-	-	-
PEPPER	27	38	-	-	-	-	-
RICE	15	24	-	-	-	-	-
SAGO & SEMOLINA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUGAR	14	18	-	-	-	-	-
SWEETS	7	9	-	-	-	-	-
SOUP POWDER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TAPIOCA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEA	6	3	-	-	-	-	-
VINEGAR	26	23	5	-	4	-	£4. 9. 0
TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN	970	887	62	60	37	43	£120.15. 6

